

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for establishing a personal communication between an
2 originating end and a terminating end of a communication system, the method comprising
3 steps of:
4 retrieving a first plurality of personal communication modes associated with
5 the originating end;
6 selecting one of the first plurality of personal communication modes, wherein
7 the selecting step comprises:
8 determining if a second plurality of personal communication modes associated
9 with the terminating end comprises any personal communication modes compatible with the
10 first plurality of personal communication modes, and
11 automatically choosing a compatible personal communication mode from the
12 first plurality of personal communication modes and the second plurality of personal
13 communication modes; and
14 indicating the compatible personal communication mode to the terminating
15 end.

1 2. The method for establishing the personal communication between the
2 originating end and the terminating end of the communication system as recited in claim 1,
3 further comprising steps of:
4 receiving the first plurality of personal communication modes from a first user
5 associated with the originating end; and
6 receiving the second plurality of personal communication modes from a
7 second user associated with the terminating end.

1 3. The method for establishing the personal communication between the
2 originating end and the terminating end of the communication system as recited in claim 1,
3 wherein the compatible personal communication mode couples communication between
4 individuals.

1 4. The method for establishing the personal communication between the
2 originating end and the terminating end of the communication system as recited in claim 1,
3 wherein the compatible personal communication mode uses a communication transport
4 method selected from a group consisting of: facsimile communication, text pager messaging,

5 numeric pager messaging, text wireless phone messaging, instant messaging, electronic mail
6 messaging, telegraph messaging, telegram messaging, voice over switched network
7 communication, voice over packet switched network, voice over Internet protocol, wireless
8 voice phone communication, cordless voice phone communication, voice over radio
9 communication, satellite phone communication, voice mail messaging, video
10 teleconferencing, and video phone communication.

1 5. The method for establishing the personal communication between the
2 originating end and the terminating end of the communication system as recited in claim 1,
3 wherein the first plurality of compatible personal communication modes are stored in a
4 database that is one of: remote to the originating end, remote to the terminating end,
5 proximate to the originating end, and proximate to the terminating end.

1 6. The method for establishing the personal communication between the
2 originating end and the terminating end of the communication system as recited in claim 1,
3 wherein the automatically choosing step is based, at least in part, upon input received from
4 one of an originating end and a terminating end.

1 7. A method for automatically selecting a compatible personal
2 communication mode between an originating end and terminating end of a communication
3 system, the method comprising steps of:

4 receiving a first plurality of personal communication modes associated with a
5 originating end;
6 receiving a second plurality of personal communication modes associated with
7 a terminating end;
8 initiating a first personal communication between the originating end and
9 terminating end;
10 selecting the compatible personal communication mode based upon the first
11 plurality of personal communication modes and the second plurality of personal
12 communication modes; and
13 initiating a second personal communication using the compatible personal
14 communication mode.

1 8. The method for automatically selecting the compatible personal
2 communication mode between the originating end and the terminating end of the

3 communication system as recited in claim 7, further comprising a step of determining that a
4 first personal communication mode for the first personal communication is unavailable.

1 9. The method for automatically selecting the compatible personal
2 communication mode between the originating end and the terminating end of the
3 communication system as recited in claim 7, wherein the selecting step comprises steps of
4 negotiating the compatible personal communication mode with a first decision tree associated
5 with the originating end and a second decision tree associated with the terminating end.

1 10. The method for automatically selecting the compatible personal
2 communication mode between the originating end and the terminating end of the
3 communication system as recited in claim 7, wherein the compatible personal communication
4 mode uses a communication transport method selected from a group consisting of: facsimile
5 communication, text pager messaging, numeric pager messaging, text wireless phone
6 messaging, instant messaging, electronic mail messaging, telegraph messaging, telegram
7 messaging, voice over switched network communication, voice over packet switched
8 network, voice over Internet protocol, wireless voice phone communication, cordless voice
9 phone communication, voice over radio communication, satellite phone communication,
40 voice mail messaging, video conferencing, and video phone communication.

1 11. The method for automatically selecting the compatible personal
2 communication mode between the originating end and the terminating end of the
3 communication system as recited in claim 7, wherein the compatible personal communication
4 mode couples communication between individuals.

1 12. The method for automatically selecting the compatible personal
2 communication mode between the originating end and the terminating end of the
3 communication system as recited in claim 7, wherein the first plurality of compatible
4 personal communication modes are stored in a database that is one of: remote to the
5 originating end, remote to the terminating end, proximate to the originating end, and
6 proximate to the terminating end.

1 13. A personal communication system for establishing personal
2 communication between a originating end and a terminating end, the personal communication
3 system comprising:

4 a first plurality of personal communication modes associated with the
5 originating end;
6 a second plurality of personal communication modes associated with the
7 terminating end;
8 a first personal communication mode that couples the originating end and the
9 terminating end together; and
10 a decision mechanism for automatically choosing a second personal
11 communication mode that is compatible with at least one of mode in each of the first plurality
12 of personal communication modes and the second plurality of personal communication
13 modes.

1 14. The personal communication system for establishing personal
2 communication between the originating end and the terminating end as recited in claim 13,
3 wherein a determination is made that the first personal communication mode is unavailable
4 before the decision mechanism chooses the second personal communication mode.

1 15. The personal communication system for establishing personal
2 communication between the originating end and the terminating end as recited in claim 13,
3 wherein the decision mechanism is in the terminating end.

1 16. The personal communication system for establishing personal
2 communication between the originating end and the terminating end as recited in claim 13,
3 further comprising a query menu presented to a user associated with the originating end,
4 wherein presentment of the query menu is performed in response to the first communication
5 mode being unavailable.

1 17. The personal communication system for establishing personal
2 communication between the originating end and the terminating end as recited in claim 13,
3 wherein the first plurality of personal communication modes is sent from originating end to
4 the terminating end using the first personal communication mode.

1 18. The personal communication system for establishing personal
2 communication between the originating end and the terminating end as recited in claim 13,
3 wherein the second personal communication mode is different from the first personal
4 communication mode.

19. The personal communication system for establishing personal communication between the originating end and the terminating end as recited in claim 13, wherein the first and second communication modes each use a communication transport mode selected from a group consisting of: facsimile communication, text pager messaging, numeric pager messaging, text wireless phone messaging, instant messaging, electronic mail messaging, telegraph messaging, telegram messaging, voice over switched network communication, voice over packet switched network, voice over Internet protocol, wireless voice phone communication, cordless voice phone communication, voice over radio communication, satellite phone communication, voice mail messaging, video teleconferencing, and video phone communication.

20. The personal communication system for establishing personal communication between the originating end and the terminating end as recited in claim 13, wherein the first plurality of compatible personal communication modes are stored in a database that is one of: remote to the originating end, remote to the terminating end, proximate to the originating end, and proximate to the terminating end.